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July 11, 2017

The Honorable Rick Nolan
U.S. House of Representatives
2366 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington D.C. 20515

Via email: Will.Mitchell@mail.house.gov

Dear Congressman Nolan:

On behalf of the coalition Jobs for Minnesotans, which represents business, labor and communities across the state, I'm writing to voice our shared support for H.R. 3115, the Superior National Forest Land Exchange Act of 2017.

Our members have been watching the NorthMet Project and land exchange progress through the established, comprehensive environmental review process as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Minnesota Environmental Policy Act. We've participated in the public input process and anxiously awaited the release of the Final Environmental Impact Statement – an enormous achievement after many years of effort by multiple parties to ensure this project is done right. Earlier this year, we celebrated the Final Record of Decision approving the land exchange as an important milestone for copper-nickel mining in Minnesota. It was a decision that validated the project's environmental review and acknowledged that the land exchange is in the best interest of the public. Unfortunately, the land exchange has not yet been finalized due to actions taken by parties who do not support the outcomes of this thorough process.

Thankfully, H.R. 3115 offers the opportunity to bring closure to what has been a long, drawn out issue mired by lawsuits against the government. If this bill becomes law, we can return to the fair process set forth under NEPA and the State of Minnesota. PolyMet will still be required to acquire necessary permits before construction begins on the NorthMet Project. This legislation is not a signature of approval, but rather is designed to bring certainty that the land exchange will progress expeditiously by ratifying what the U.S. Forest Service already determined in the Record of Decision earlier this year.

The members of Jobs for Minnesotans understand the economic benefits of the NorthMet Project – hundreds of jobs, 2 million construction hours over an 18-24 month period, an economic annuity of over \$500 million to the St. Louis County economy. These are sustained and widespread benefits that will preserve a way of life in northeastern Minnesota, ensuring future generations have good job opportunities in their communities.

We anxiously await this future and thank you and your colleagues for continuing to stand strong in support of responsible mining in our state. We urge rapid passage of H.R. 3115 through the U.S. Congress.

Sincerely,



Nancy Norr
Board Chair
Jobs for Minnesotans

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Jobs for Minnesotans, a coalition representing business, labor and communities, supports statewide opportunities for prosperity and middle-class jobs from sustainable natural resource development in Minnesota. The organization is committed to the principle that our state can preserve both job opportunities and the environment for future generations. Jobs for Minnesotans was co-founded in 2012 by the Minnesota Building and Construction Trades Council representing 55,000 workers and the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce representing 2,300 companies and 500,000 employees.

CC: Senator Klobuchar
Senator Franken
Representative Peterson
Representative Emmer
Representative Lewis